Level of processing of agricultural products

3449. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the level of processing of the various agricultural products in the country is very low as compared to the developed and even some developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of major constraints food processing industry is confronting; and

(d) the details of measures being contemplated by Government to overcome these constraints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The level of processing of fruits & vegetables in the country is estimated at 2.20%.

(c) The major constraints food processing industry is confronting at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented and traditional farming, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, lack of processable variety of raw material, lack of adequate inflow of investment in the sector etc.

(d) The Government is implementing various schemes for overcoming constraints in the development of the sector. These include creation and development of processing infrastructure, setting up/modernization/upgradation of the food processing units, food safety and quality control, skill upgradation and capacity building.

Operationalisation of food parks

3450. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food parks sanctioned to be set up in various States, so far, States-wise;

(b) the reasons for slow progress in operationalising the food parks; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to ensure that all the conditions, necessary for the success of food parks, are put in place quickly?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) 56 Food Parks have been sanctioned so far in various States during the 8th to 10th Plan Periods. Food Park Scheme has been discontinued in the 11th Five Year Plan. List of Food Parks is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries had engaged reputed external agencies namely EDI, Ahmedabad and Consulting Engineers Ltd. to carry out evaluation of the Food Park Scheme. As